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**NEWS From:**

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**Congressman Mike Honda**

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**FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA**

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**New Leadership for Northern California: Mike Honda Sworn In as 107th Congress Begins**  
*Colleagues Select Honda for Leadership Post His First Day on the Job*

**Washington, DC--** On his first official day in office representing California's 15th Congressional District, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA) was selected by his Democratic colleagues to serve as the Regional Whip for Northern California, Hawaii, Samoa and Guam. The Regional Whip works directly with the Democratic Leadership by communicating with Democratic Members within their region to implement legislative priorities during the Legislative Session.

**"Throughout his career, Mike Honda has been a strong voice for California's families on key issues like education, transportation and technology,"** said Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). **"While leadership positions are normally reserved for more senior Members of the House, it's no surprise that Mike's experience and leadership qualities have enabled him to quickly earn the trust and respect of his Democratic colleagues from California, Hawaii Samoa and Guam."**

**"I feel very privileged to represent the heart of Silicon Valley in the United States Congress and am honored that my Democratic colleagues have asked me to serve as Regional Whip for Northern California, Hawaii, Samoa and Guam,"** said Honda. **"I am confident this post will enable me to better serve families and vital economic and social interests of the South Bay in the U.S. House of Representatives."**

After a hotly contested race, Mike Honda defeated his Republican opponent by nearly 13%, and now represents California's 15th District, the heart of Silicon Valley. Mike Honda is a third generation Japanese American who was born in the Bay Area. He and his family were taken to internment camps during World War II. Mike then returned to San Jose where he has lived and worked for nearly his entire life. After serving in the Peace Corps in El Salvador, Mike worked for nearly 20 years in the field of education, as a teacher, vice principal, principal, and then school board member. Appointed to the San Jose Planning Commission by now Secretary Norm Mineta, Mike went on to serve as a County Supervisor and State Assemblyman. He has distinguished himself as a dedicated elected official in a great variety of areas, including education, transportation and resources, and in his service as Chair of the Public Safety and Public Employee and Retirement Systems Committees.